REMARKS

Claims 6- 31 remain pending in the instant application. All claims presently stand rejected. Reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papa et al. (US 6,324,608 B1) in view of Eide et al. (US 6,529,978 B1) in further view of Baum et al. (US 6,456,632).

"To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Independent claim 6 recites, in pertinent part,

> ...wherein the first and second network interfaces are both coupled to insert data received from the processor and the first peripheral device, respectively, into the packetized messages prior to transmitting the data onto the communications link and to extract the data from the packetized messages received from the communications link prior to providing the data to the processor and the first peripheral device, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to disclose network interfaces associated with a processor and a peripheral device of the processor **both** coupled to insert **and** extract data from packetized messages transmitted on a communication link **between the processor and its peripheral device**.

The Examiner acknowledges that Papa fails to disclose "packetized messages based on a network transmission protocol to provide communication between the first processor and the first peripheral device." *Office Action* mailed September 27, 2005, page 3. The Examiner further acknowledges that Papa as modified by Eide fails to disclose the above recited portion of claim 6. *Office Action* mailed September 27, 2005, page 3 to page 4.

The Examiner cites Baum as disclosing the above recited portion of claim 6. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Baum also does not teach or suggest a peripheral device and a processor both having network interface that insert and extract

data into/from packetized messages for communication **between** the processor and the peripheral device.

To be sure, FIG. 6 of Baum illustrates a protocol separator 518. Packets are received on Ethernet input port 520, the incoming packets are inspected for identifiable bit sequences to determine the protocol type of the incoming packets, and then redirected based on the protocol type. *Baum*, col. 9, lines 36-67. Protocol separator 518 is capable of very rapid redirection of a packet stream with no significant increase in latency. *Baum*, col. 10, lines 6-8. Additionally, FIG. 2 of Baum illustrates passage of a packet from the application layer **of one host** to the application layer of **another host**. FIG. 4 of Baum illustrates frame construction and reduction in transferring packets between hosts.

However, Baum fails to disclose, teach, or suggest network interfaces associated with a processor and a peripheral device of the processor **both** coupled to insert **and** extract data from packetized messages transmitted on a communication link **between the processor and its peripheral device**. In short, Baum fails to teach the missing element, which is also not disclosed or taught by Papa or Eide. This missing element is inserting/extracting data into/from packets to support communications between a processor and a peripheral device of the processor. Baum simply has no disclosure related to packet based communications between a processor and its peripheral device.

Consequently, the combination of Papa, Eide, and Baum fails to teach or suggest all elements of claim 6, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Independent claims 14 and 21 include similar nonobvious elements as independent claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants request that the instant §103(a) rejections of claims 6, 14, and 21 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are nonobvious over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103 rejections for the dependent claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.
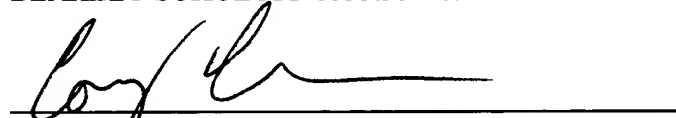
CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: Jan. 25, 2006

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